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**WRC candidate name: Barry Quayle**

*Please type in the space below each question, and use as much space as you require for each answer.*

*Please email your responses back to [info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz](mailto:info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz) not later than **Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 2016**.*

**1. What do you think are the top three challenges facing the Waikato region that WRC could influence over the next five to ten years?**

- Water quality of the Waikato River from south Hamilton to Port Waikato
- Threats to Biodiversity - threats to over a hundred species including fish, plants, animals
- Road freight increase with longer and heavier trucks possibly being agreed by central government

**2. Do you believe the Regional Council has a role in economic development and in what ways?**

A quality and sustainable water supply is critical to any development and living environment. The right infrastructure to support development such as roading and rail corridors. Effective flood protection systems. Managing coastal ecosystems and the coastal marine environment so that uses are sustainable and erosion and sediment is minimized.

**3. What do you consider to be the main biodiversity and biosecurity issues within the Waikato region, and how can WRC best address them?**

Loss of indigenous biodiversity. Pest impact on biodiversity and ecosystems. Introduced fish such as Koi Carp. Flood protection infrastructure to protect areas. Council should not have just a containment area for Koi Carp but work towards eradication as has been achieved in the South Island. Pest management including possum reduction. New technologies for pest management that can be adopted over time instead of the chemical bates used currently.

**4. What are the major challenges to improving freshwater quality in the Waikato region, and, as a councillor, what would be your priorities?**

Sediment from the Waipa River, Koi Carp in the lower Waikato, run off, nitrates and agri-chemicals leaching from land use adjacent rivers and tributaries is an issue. The current council objectives have a 20-year horizon and longer. This is far too long. Three, five and ten year objectives need to be set so that greater community and farmer engagement adopts positive steps.

**5. What are the priority coastal marine issues in the Waikato region, and what do you think WRC needs to do to address them more effectively?**

The many uses including aquaculture shipping, energy, marinas and moorings are putting pressure on marine ecosystems. Sediment is also affecting harbour areas. Council needs to set more effective objectives with three, five and ten year periods so that the immediacy of the issue is better understood by communities. Marine pests such as fan worm need a specific strategy promoted and adopted. Land use in estuaries needs better controls to prevent erosion and sediment.

**6. Do you think WRC has a responsibility to have policies to mitigate climate change and manage its impacts? Could you please give some examples?**

As a lead agency on the environment in the region, Council needs to be seen as having a leadership role in the planning and policies that will result in demonstrable steps that seek to change land use that has negative impacts in advancing climate change. Behaviours and attitudes need to be influenced and changed to encourage sustainable activity. Air emission standards need to be maintained and enforced so that industry minimises air pollution and increased CO2. Riparian strip planting needs to be more fully endorsed and encouraged around waterways.

**7. What do you see as the priorities for transport in the Waikato region over the next five to ten years, and how could WRC bring about transportation improvements?**

Actively lobby against the government allowing the trucking industry increasing the length and weight of trucks. This negatively impacts safety and maintenance of roads and creates more CO2 per tonne than if rail options were better advanced. Rail corridors and rail freight must be encouraged. Cycling/walkways with dedicated separate provision need to be encouraged in the region so that a comprehensive network is created. Light rail as a people transport option needs to be enabled and encouraged from Waikato to Auckland.

**8. How do you think WRC can best assist community groups and individuals who undertake environmental initiatives?**

By providing information - what to do and where; how to restore areas/habitats for at risk fish and animals, and encourage native birds. By providing skills and pest management and by providing materials. Creating partnerships that are effective.

**9. What can WRC do to support businesses, schools, families and individuals to make more sustainable choices?**

Partnerships with businesses where business adopts or sponsors a sustainable initiative. Give recognition/awards to companies who adopt positive sustainable plans. Provide education material on how environmental initiatives are the real sustainable answer for the region and for communities to survive and prosper in the future. Education and apps for schools so that they can see threatened areas, gain info, and find out what they could do to assist in mitigation steps.

**10. What have been your most significant contributions to enhancing environmental, social, cultural and/or economic wellbeing in the Waikato region?**

When I was Fieldays General Manager I personally established a prominent Fieldays feature: Possum Busters. This was followed by Possum Busters 2 in a later year. I subsequently created a Premier Feature called Sustainable Farming. During the 1990s into 2000s, I worked with the CEO of what was then a very small entity called the Land Care Trust. We collaborated to establish the Land Care feature as the premier feature of Fieldays. The trust paid no site fee and a mechanism was set up in the feature to derive income and get central

*Sustainable Waikato questionnaire to Waikato Regional Council candidates 2016*

government politicians and others to interact. As a result, the Land Care Trust got significant additional funding and recognition from government and cabinet. More recently as a Manager in the executive team of Braemar Hospital, I increased hospital waste recycling to over 21% and reduced the waste water temperature by more than 10 degrees. I also changed laundry washing chemicals to more eco-friendly options.